

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE  
SUBMISSION OF A GRANT TO U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICES FOR EMERSON POINT PRESERVE COASTAL  
UPLANDS INVASIVE EXOTIC REMOVAL.**

**WHEREAS**, Emerson Point Preserve is a state-owned, county-managed natural area preserved in perpetuity for passive recreation, historic preservation, and habitat conservation, and area has undergone several successful woody invasive exotic plant removal efforts which are now at a maintenance level; and

**WHEREAS**, all restoration efforts have been under the auspices of both Manatee County, as managers and lease holders, and under the Department of Environmental Protection as land owner; and

**WHEREAS**, the current numbers of invasive exotic grasses and shrubs out-compete existing native vegetation, inhibit replanting efforts and threaten to redevelop into monocultures should an unforeseen drop in staffing/budget occur; and

**WHEREAS**, requested grant funding is \$20,000.00 to include an initial treatment and seven subsequent maintenance efforts of invasive exotics and allow establishment of beneficial native plant species; and

**WHEREAS**, ongoing community volunteer and education programs involving the project area will continue through the funding of this proposal.

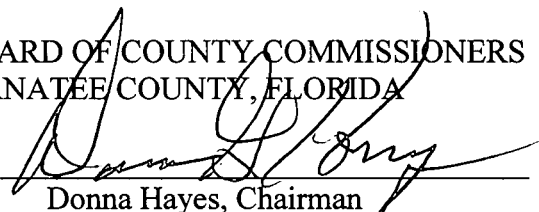
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. The submission of a grant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for Emerson Point Preserve Coastal Uplands Invasive Exotic Removal is hereby authorized.
2. The County Administrator is authorized to execute all appropriate documents with regards to the submission of this grant application.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By

  
Donna Hayes, Chairman

ATTEST: R.B. SHORE

Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: 



# MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

<b>SUBJECT</b>	US Fish and Wildlife Grant for Emerson Point Preserve Restoration	<b>TYPE AGENDA ITEM</b>	Consent
<b>DATE REQUESTED</b>	January 12, 2010	<b>DATE SUBMITTED/REVISED</b>	December 22, 2009
<b>BRIEFINGS? Who?</b>	None	<b>CONSEQUENCES IF DEFERRED</b>	Loss of grant funds
<b>DEPARTMENT/DIVISION</b>	Natural Resources Department	<b>AUTHORIZED BY TITLE</b>	Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Natural Resources <i>Charlie Hunsicker</i>
<b>CONTACT PERSON TELEPHONE/EXTENSION</b>	Keith Bettcher/#4610	<b>PRESENTER/TITLE TELEPHONE/EXTENSION</b>	Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Natural Resources/#4601
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>	

### ACTION DESIRED

INDICATE WHETHER 1) REPORT; 2) DISCUSSION; 3) FORM OF MOTION; OR 4) OTHER ACTION REQUIRED

Adoption of Resolution R-10-008 authorizing the application for a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$20,000 for restoration activities at Emerson Point Preserve.

### ENABLING/REGULATING AUTHORITY

Federal/State law(s), administrative ruling(s), Manatee County Comp Plan/Land Development Code, ordinances, resolutions, policy

**APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION**

JAN 12 2010

### BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

- Emerson Point Preserve is a state-owned, County-managed natural area preserved in perpetuity for passive recreation, historic preservation and habitat conservation. Acquired in 1991, the area has undergone several successful woody invasive exotic plant removal efforts which are now at a maintenance level. The restoration of understory grasses and shrubs in coastal uplands is on-going to fully restore and optimize habitat.
- Per the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, a management plan was developed for Emerson Point Preserve in 1997 with review completed in 2001. All restoration efforts have been under the auspices of both Manatee County, as managers and lease holders, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection as land owner.
- The current numbers of invasive-exotic grasses and shrubs out-compete existing native vegetation, inhibit replanting efforts and threaten to redevelop into monocultures should an unforeseen drop in staffing/budget occur. To maximize the greenhouse gas sequestration for the project area, it would best be populated by a diverse pallet of native plants. This same diversity would also help protect future shorelines from wind and wave energy by creating substantial structure and allow for seed retention for mangroves and other shoreline plants should the sea level rise to the project area.
- Estimated start date would be February 2010 and re-treatments at three month intervals until proposed funding is exhausted in February 2012.
- Three coastal upland habitats are under continuing restoration from County management and have each been treated with non-native removal, installation of thousands of native trees, shrubs and grasses and management with prescribed fire. This proposal is for additional restoration assistance to include pine flatwoods, temperate hardwood hammock and tropical hardwood hammock. Invasive-exotic shrubs and grasses are present in each of these three habitats comprising some 50 acres within eight contiguous management units. Estimated non-native removal cost per acre is \$50.00. Proposed project acreage is within a 365 acre peninsular property including the surrounding mangrove swamp and salt tern with interior freshwater marshes, therefore restoring the 50 acre project area translates to indirect improvements for the adjacent habitats.
- Through Manatee County's management of the project site there is both ongoing community volunteer and education programs. Involvement in the project area will continue through the funding of this proposal. The Natural Resources Department has a Volunteer and Education Division dedicated to volunteer and education programming at Emerson Point Preserve.
- Requested funding is \$20,000.00 to include an initial treatment and seven subsequent maintenance efforts (\$50.00 x 50 acres x 8 treatments = \$20,000.00). Current spending on this project comes from Manatee County Natural Resources Department's operating budget with additional in-kind volunteer hours from the Volunteer and Education Division.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW	
Check appropriate box	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED</b> Written Comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Available from Attorney (Attorney's Initials: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT REVIEWED (No apparent legal issues.)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT REVIEWED (Utilizes exact form or procedure previously approved by CAO.)</b> Ungarelli parcel, R-09-159, June 23, 2009, Patricia McVoy, CAO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>OTHER</b>

ATTACHMENTS: (List in order as attached)		INSTRUCTIONS TO BOARD RECORDS:	
Resolution 10-008 Pre-Proposal Information Sheet Coastal Program		None	
<b>COST:</b>	There is no County cost associated with this grant.	<b>SOURCE (ACCT # &amp; NAME):</b>	N/A
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	N/A	<b>AMT./FREQ. OF RECURRING COSTS: (ATTACH FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT)</b>	N/A

**APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION**  
**JAN 12 2010**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

# PRE-PROPOSAL INFORMATION SHEET COASTAL PROGRAM

**Project title:** Emerson Point Preserve Coastal Uplands Invasive Exotic Removal

**Location:** Snead Island, Manatee County, Florida

**Project description: briefly describe the project in terms of Strategic Habitat Conservation (<http://www.fws.gov/science/StrategicHabitatConservation.html>). Include the three components of SHC and describe how your project will address each component: Planning (biological planning and conservation design), Implementation (restoration technique) and Monitoring (identify success criteria, describe monitoring techniques and actions to be implemented for the long-term viability/sustainability of the habitat):**

Management goals of the property by Manatee County supports SHC components: Since the acquisition of Emerson Point Preserve in 1991, development of a management plan in 1997 and subsequent review in 2001, the optimization of each of seven distinct habitat types were made priority with action taken. Specific to the project proposed here, restoration of coastal uplands (pine flatwoods, temperate and tropical hammock) included removal of all FLEPPC category I invasive-exotic species, replanting with native species, return to a natural fire period via prescription burns --all within the use of a management unit system. Monitoring has taken place via bi-annual photo data points since 2004 and visual estimates of vegetative cover assist day to day management decisions.

Invasive-exotic grass and shrub species to be focused on for removal in this project include: cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), natal grass (*Rynchelytrum repens*), guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), star or Egypt grass (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*), rosary pea (*Abrus precatorius*), climbing cassia (*Senna pendula*), ceasar weed (*Urena lobata*), hairy indigo (*Indigofera hirsuta* L.), and lantana (*Lantana aculeate* L.).

**Is this a technical assistance project? If yes, can a restoration component be added to the scope of work?**

No technical assistance is needed. Proposed project is complimentary to ongoing restoration through invasive exotic plant removal efforts, subsequent replanting and habitat enhancement performed by Manatee County.

**Is there a long term conservation or protection plan in place or is one being developed for the project area?** (e.g., long-term conservation easement, public conservation land)

Yes. Emerson Point Preserve is a state-owned, county-managed natural area preserved in perpetuity for passive recreation, historic preservation and habitat conservation. Acquired in 1991, the area has undergone several successful woody invasive exotic plant removal efforts which are now at a maintenance level. The restoration of understory grasses and shrubs in coastal uplands is on-going to fully restore and optimize habitat.

**Is the project part of an existing-based community plan, a species recovery plan, a watershed restoration plan or other management plan?**

Yes. Per the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, a management plan was developed for Emerson Point Preserve in 1997 with review completed in 2001. All restoration efforts have been under the auspices of both Manatee County, as managers and lease holders and DEP as land owner.

**Describe how the project incorporates impacts of future sea level rise or other aspects of global climate change.**

The current numbers of invasive-exotic grasses and shrubs out-compete existing native vegetation, inhibit replanting efforts and threaten to redevelop into monocultures should an unforeseen drop in staffing/budget occur. To maximize the greenhouse gas sequestration for the project area, it would best be populated by a diverse pallet of native plants. This same diversity would also help protect future shorelines from wind and

wave energy by creating substantial structure and allow for seed retention for mangroves and other shoreline plants should the sea level rise to the project area.

**Project start and end date:** *(Include estimate if exact dates are unknown and indicate if this can be a multiple year study if necessary to funding purposes)*

Estimated start date would be February 2010 and re-treatments at three month intervals until proposed funding is exhausted in Feb. 2012.

**Habitat restored:** *(Describe type of habitat to be restored, the number of acres and cost per acre)*

Three coastal upland habitats are under continuing restoration from County management and have each been treated with non-native removal, installation of thousands of native trees, shrubs and grasses and management with prescribed fire. Proposed, here, to receive additional restoration assistance are: pine flatwoods, temperate hardwood hammock and tropical hardwood hammock. Invasive-exotic shrubs and grasses are present in each of these three habitats comprising some 50 acres within eight contiguous management units. Estimated non-native removal cost per acre is \$50.00. The generally accepted estimate of \$8.00 per acre of managing land through prescribed fire is not included as it is part of Manatee County's existing management program. Proposed project acreage is within a 365 acre peninsular property including the surrounding mangrove swamp and salt tern with interior freshwater marshes, therefore restoring the 50 acre project area translates to indirect improvements for the adjacent habitats. Further Manatee County restoration will extend beyond the reach of this project to include more native plant installations, continued maintenance removal of non-native plants, and continued use of prescribed fire to maintain applicable habitats.

**Funding requested:** *(Include amount request and total amount to complete project)*

Requested funding is \$20,000.00 to include an initial treatment and seven subsequent maintenance efforts (\$50.00 x 50 acres x 8 treatments = \$20,000.00)

**Partners involved and their contribution:** *(List all partners and their contributions to the effort in the form of cash or equivalent in-kind services)*

Current spending on this project comes from Manatee County Natural Resources Department's operating budget with additional in-kind volunteer hours from the Volunteer and Education Division. A complete list of all contributors and funds since acquisition in 1991 would be too exhaustive for this report, however the following is a list of some major contributors:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands (acquisition)  
Manatee County Government (acquisition and current operation)  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
Tampa Bay National Estuary Program  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Additional in-kind volunteer labor from:  
Manatee Volunteer Services, Manateens, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, Bay Buddies  
Americorps National Service

**Project PI:** *(Include name, address, phone number and email)*

Max Dersch  
415 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, Bradenton, FL 34205  
Office (941) 745-3723 Cell (941) 737-1743  
max.dersch@mymanatee.org

**Does the project have a conservation benefit for any federally classified candidate species and/or federally listed threatened and endangered species? (Include all applicable species)**

Yes. Species to benefit from the project are: gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), with existing population estimated at 0.6 per acre (D. Gordon, Emerson Point Preserve Baseline Flora and Fauna Survey, May 2005), along with potential obligate burrow inhabitant, eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchen corais couperi*). Benefiting indirectly through improved water quality is the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). Listed bird species using the project area include: wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), roseate spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) and little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*).

**Is the local community engaged in this project or are there plans to involve them in the future? (e.g., volunteers, education and outreach, fundraising)**

Yes. Through Manatee County's management of the project site there is both ongoing community volunteer and education programs. Involvement in the project area will continue through the funding of this proposal. The Natural Resources Department has a Volunteer and Education Division dedicated to volunteer and education programming at Emerson Point Preserve.